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NPIC/CSD-180/66

24 March 1966

25X1

PAGES

2

PAGE

1 OF2

COPY

1

ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
DON BAI DINH AREA, NORTH VIETNAM

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS A NEW ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTING ROUTES 101 AND 15 SEVERAL MILES NORTHWEST OF THE LAOTIAN BORDER.

2. COLLATERAL:

COLLATERAL REPORTS THAT ROUTE 15, AND ROUTE 12, ITS EXTENTION IN LAOS TO THE JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 23, IS THE BEGINNING OF THE SUPPLY ROUTE FOR TROOPS IN SOUTHERN LAOS. ROUTE 15 IS AN IMPORTANT ROUTE CONNECTING ROUTE 1A IN NORTH VIETNAM WITH THE LAOTIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK IN THE SOUTHERN PANHANDLE REGION. ROUTE 101 LEADS SOUTH TO CONNECT WITH ROUTE 1A APPROXIMATELY 5 NM NORTH OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE.

3. BACKGROUND:

BOTH ROUTES 15 AND 101 LEAD TO THE LAOTIAN BORDER AND HAVE BEEN THE TARGET OF U.S. AIR STRIKES AIMED AT IMPEDING THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION IS PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SERVICEABLE ROADS INTO THE MU GIA PASS AREA.

4. MISSION READOUT:

REVEAL CONTINUING

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CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD FIRST OBSERVED IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1966. THE ROAD

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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NPIC/CSD-180/66
24 MARCH 1966
PAGE 2

25X1

EXTENDS GENERALLY SOUTHWEST AND THEN WEST FROM ROUTE 101 AT 1752N - 10551E (UTM WE898763), UTILIZING NUMEROUS SWITCHBACKS, TO ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 15 AT 1747N - 10547E (UTM WE835665). CLEARING OPERATIONS APPEAR TO BE ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE AND MINOR GRADING IS OBSERVED. FOUR UNOCCUPIED AW/AA POSITIONS ARE OBSERVED.



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ALL UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L701, SHEETS 6164 I AND II.

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